the Director of Agriculture, the Chief Engineer and the Water Works Engineer. They could go to the locality and find out whether the fears, imaginary or otherwise, with which Government are obsessed, are warranted by facts and local conditions. They can investigate whether those misgivings have any real basis. Then it will be time enough for this House to say whether it should be dropped or not.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*) : What is the use of investigation when there is no possibility of funds being allotted for some years together ?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : If it is of urgent necessity, funds must be found. Otherwise, you must remove from the landscape that mosquito breeding portion ; I mean, the half-cut portions of the canal must be levelled up. The other day the Health authorities in Alleppey found it difficult to keep clean the Alleppey-Shertala canal banks. It is now the breeding-bed of mosquitoes. Sir, this is a very serious matter affecting the irrigational, the agricultural and the commercial interest of Shertala and Alleppey.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Additinal Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Not sanitary ?

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*) : If it is any consolation to the Law Member, I will add that also.

I do not propose to press the motion. I request Government that they will be pleased to reconsider the situation and try to turn into use the huge amount of public money wasted by the government.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

LEASE OF KANNI ELAM LANDS.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam I*) : Sir, I move the following resolution .

This Assembly recommends to the Government that lands in the Kanni Elam tract be leased out to the applicants under the existing rules.

Sir, two days ago, on a cut motion, the salient features regarding the necessity of leasing out lands in the Kanni Elam tract were pointed out by me. There remains now only one or two more points in connection with this resolution.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil I*) : What is the meaning of "Kanni Elam" ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That matter was explained a day or two back. You need not explain that now.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam I*) : The economic aspect of throwing open the Kanni Elam tracts has to be considered. There are something like 25,000 acres of land remaining unopened and Government can get a revenue of a lakh of rupees.

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MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I ask whether there are applications for this land?

MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): There are applications which are pending before the Government and the Conservator.

The question of unemployment will be solved to a very great extent, as thousands of coolies will be given work. From that aspect of the case also, I think it requires the serious consideration of the Government.

The possible arguments that may be advanced by the Conservator against the throwing open of this area are mainly three. One is that the flow of rivers in the Nagarampara reserve will be obstructed. I find that Periyar is the only main river flowing through this area. If it is found necessary that some more of this tract should be left intact in order that the steady flow of the river may not be affected, that may be done. I do not think al most more than one thousand acres would be necessary for that. Another reason is that people used to take up the cultivation of cardamom when the market condition was good. When they found that the price of cardamom was going down, they abandoned it. That was the case when cardamom was the monopoly of that Governnent. Another reason is that there will be difficulties about getting the *Kuthagapattom* money when the lands are leased out. If the provisions of the rules are strictly enforced, I do not think there will be any difficulty in realising these amounts.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): What is the cost of cultivation of an acre of land?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): The cost varies according to the locality. It will take nearly five years for cardamom to give a return. During these years, the estate will have to be maintained and jungle cleared. Plants will also have to be planted if systematic and effective cultivation is to be carried on.

Generally plants seldom grow of themselves in those places. They will have to be carried from distant places and the cost of transport is great. There are not good roads through which the plants could be conveniently taken. They have to be taken on head-loads. The cost of 1,000 plants would come to something like Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 in addition to transport charges. The cost of cultivation per acre for the five years would come to not less than Rs. 100.

The demand I have asked for is only a legitimate demand. I also submit that it is not inconsistent with the declared policy of the Government. I would refer to page 74 of the Administration Report, para 69, wherein the forest policy is enunciated. It reads as follows:—

> "The policy of the Government has in recent years been to refrain from further reservation of extensive areas. The objects underlying the reservation so far made have been to secure the utmost possible yield from that part of a forest block which is commercially valuable, to protect the forest growth in mountainous tracts for the prevention of erosion and landslips, to regulate the flow of water in streams originating from the hills and to preserve the source of supply of small timber and fuel to the agriculturists and of fodder for the cattle".

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It is stated that the blocks which are commercially valuable to the State may be kept intact. But here, as I said the other day, absolutely no commercial possibility is available in these places. These places do not contain much valuable trees; and even if trees are there, they are not to be cut down because they are necessary for the growth of cardamoms.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): May I know where that area is located?

MR. K. A NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): To the west of the Periyar river, somewhere north and north-east of Arakulam and Karimannoor.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Is that place more accessible to Travancoreans or to the people of Madura?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): It is easily accessible for Travancoreans. But people from Madura and Cumbum also can come in.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvella II*): Is there any market for cardamom?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Not a good one at present. Cardamom market is being monopolised somewhere in Virudunagar. It is difficult to get the real value. I think it is one of the duties of the Agricultural Department to find the markets for cardamom also.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Can the member tell me about the price of cardamoms?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not relevant. There are rules on the subject and Mr. Narayana Pillai says that things may be done in pursuance of the rules. So the question of market does not arise.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Last year cardamom was sold at Rs. 20 to 22 at Todupuzha. Now it seems the price is about Rs. 30 per *thulam*. At Pallivasal *taravila* has to be paid. In this case firstly *taravila* need not be paid. Secondly, access is also easier from Todupuzha, and other parts in the State since the places are near to it.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvella II*): What is the extent of acreage, please?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Not less than 25,000 acres. As I said in the beginning, with a view to solve the unemployment problem and seeing that it is a source of revenue to Government and beneficial to the agriculturists in the State, I beg to commend my resolution to the acceptance of the House.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I beg to second the motion. The chief source of income for the people inhabiting the north-eastern taluks of our State is from pepper and cocoanut. Especially is this the case for the people of Todupuzha. We know that the price of pepper and cocoanut has considerably gone down. Not only that, the

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[Mr. K. M. Kuriakose.]

yield also has gone down to a large extent. Therefore the people in those parts are seeking other pursuits in life to earn their living. Added to that is the widespread economic depression. That being so, it is the duty of Government to see that all possible facilities are given for the people to improve their economic situation. The other day, during the discussion of the Forest Demand, the Conservator of Forests raised two important objections. One was that, if the areas are leased out on *Kuthagapattom* lease, it will be difficult for Government to collect the lease amount. For that, I say the Government should take more precautionary methods.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Does he mean the collection of rent?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Lease amount is different from rent.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Anyway, Sir, if Government feel any difficulty in the matter of collection of money, they can very well ask the bidders to pay a cash deposit by way of security, which would overcome that difficulty. The second point he urged was that it may affect the flood of certain rivers. If the undergrowths are cleared away, it is feared by the Conservator that the rivers which are flooded in monsoon times will become a menace to people. The possibility of rain water settling down is prevented by the clearing away of the undergrowth. Thereby prevention of flood becomes impossible. If that were the case, Sir, it is a serious point to be considered. Mr. Narayana Pillai said that the area is located near the source of the Periyar river. After all, what is the area that is proposed to be opened and leased out. It comes to about 25,000 acres only. The portion that would come up for registry would be much less. If so, compared with the vast extent of the area, I am of the opinion that it will not seriously affect the flood situation of the rivers, and especially the Periyar river. I think this question should be seriously tackled from the point of view of unemployment and the economic condition of the people. With these words, I support the resolution.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I also support the motion. I understand that about 20 to 25 thousand acres of land in Nagarampara Reserve are available for Kanni-Elam cultivation. Cardamom was once royalty and in the above reserve all those places were under the cardamom cultivation in charge of the Forest Department. Even now at Todupuzha there is a building called Elam Cutcherry. All the cardamoms in those days were collected by the department and stored in that place. Subsequently the royalty was abolished. Those places were again under wild growth of cardamoms and the people were enjoying the lands without paying anything to Government. They were collecting cardamoms also under minor forest produce. By the introduction of the rent system, a large area was leased out and those lands were under cardamom cultivation. By leasing out about 20 to 25 thousand

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acres of lands, the Forest Department can easily get an income of about a lakh of rupees, which means income to Government ultimately. These are waste lands under the charge of the Forest Department without any valuable trees. So I think a major portion may be leased out for cardamom cultivation. That will also solve the problem of unemployment to a certain extent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I pointed out at the last meeting of the budget session that after the abolition of the monopoly of cardamoms the Makara Elam tract was ordered to be assigned to people and the Kanni Elam tract was transferred to the Forest Department. This Kanni Elam is situated to the west of the Periyar river. During the time when the monopoly of cardamoms was in existence, the quantity of cardamoms collected from this tract was only small.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): How many acres was the area?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Fores's*): I have no idea about that. People were given the lands and cultivation of cardamoms was going on.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Was no specific area given to them for cultivation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Fores's*): No specified area was given to them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Was not a survey of the lands conducted then?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest's*): No.

According to the present survey, the area comes to about two thousand acres or so.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): At that time, was the cultivation of cardamoms resorted to or was there any spontaneous growth of cardamoms?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest's*): There was some cultivation. What I was saying was, after the abolition of the monopoly, Kanni Elam tracts came under the control of the Forest Department. Lands where there was cardamom were allowed to exist as such. Some of the people of Todupuzha, who had easy access to the place, whether legitimately or no, were collecting those cardamoms. When I was in the High Ranges, there were only three gardens leased out for this purpose. The revenue realised from these three blocks was about Rs. 200. Now the conditions there have not in any way bettered. Government had laid down the policy to be followed by the Forest Department as long ago as 1907. They had ordered what the Department should do and what they should not. The policy of the Department since then was guided by this order of Government. A certain portion of the Makara Elam tract was earmarked and transferred to the Land Revenue Department. The rest of the area that was lying to the east of the Periyar River where there were no cardamom lands was transferred completely to the Forest Department.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Does it mean that it became part of the Reserve Forest ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes. Since that time, the Forest Department was having complete control over this area. As I explained last time, the hills to the west of Periyar River formed the water shed of so many rivers, *viz.*, the tributaries of the Periyar and the Muvattupuzha rivers. From the description given by Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai, it would appear as if the cardamom lands extend in one compact block from one end to the other. The major portion of the Nagarampara Reserve is grassy lands. Forest is confined to the valleys of small streams and rivers. When these forest lands are given for cardamom cultivation, the undergrowth will be cut down. Mr. Mahomed from Alwaye was more than once telling us about the floods they were having this year repeated by the year in the lower regions of Periyar. When these lands are cleared for cardamom cultivation, it is likely there may be floods lower down more frequently.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Was there clearance in recent years which caused the floods ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Conservator is saying that, if it is done, there will be more frequent floods.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Even now the river is in floods.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know whether when the lands were under the Forest Department there were floods ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : It was then a sort of periodical cultivation done by the people.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know how many acres were rented for cultivation ?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : It will be about 1,000 acres.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What is the extent of this Nagarampara Reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : 75 Sq. miles.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is the 25,000 acres available for Kanni Elam clearing alone or does it cover the Nagarampara reserve also ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : The Kanni Elam tract is almost wholly in the Nagarampara Reserve.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : My question is whether all the lands which are fit for cardamom cultivation are covered by Nagarampara Reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Mostly.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know what is the objection in leasing out lands which do not fall within that reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : They are all included in the reserve.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the leasing out of lands in the Neriamangalam reserve is likely to affect further and higher floods?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no such land in the Neriamangalam Reserve. The 10,000 acres thrown out now for cardamom cultivation is outside the Reserves.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know where that 10,000 acres is available.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is near Pallivasal.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Is it not under the Land Revenue Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Are we not to pay *tharavila* there?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Probably Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai wants the lands to be given on mere leases without having the obligation to pay *tharavila*.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He said clearly in the beginning that it was his object.

MR. R DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Of course in the area in the 10,000 acres about Pallivasal side, peple have to pay a *tharavila* amounting to Rs. 80 or so per acre. But so far as the Forest Department is concerned, it is not a question of revenue. But it is a question of protecting the lands lower down. If it were a question of revenue, naturally the Forest Department would have transferred them to the Land Revenue Department. We have been asked to take care of the lands which have been transferred to us and to conserve them. It may be asked why then allow Kanni Elam gardens to exist there. It happened that these areas were once cultivated and there were cardamom plants there. Once or twice, they were leased. But there were no peop'e to take it up. Now on account of the boom in cardamom, there is some rush for these gardens. The Forest Department is not at all anxious to get any income by leasing out the lands. The object in reserving them is to regulate the flow of water in and to prevent damages to regions lower down by floods and other causes.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): May I know whether the recent opening of the Neriyamangalam road and the registry of the Mannamkandam have affected the floods of the Periyar river?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): If the member means whether the opening of the road and the registry of the land has affected the floods in the lower regions, I may say that it has to some extent.

For these reasons, I would say that it is inadvisable to allow Kanni-Elam tract to be thrown out either for cultivation permanently or on lease.

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MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolam*): The arguments advanced by the Conservator of Forests are not at all convincing. So I press the motion to a division.

The Resolution was put to vote.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think the Resolution is lost.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following results:—

AYES.—20

1	Mr.	A. S. Damodaran Asan	11	Mr.	S. Nilakanta Pillai
2	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	12	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
3	,,	S. J. Nair	13	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
4	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	14	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
5	,,	T. Krishna Pillai	15	,,	Edavanat S. Padmanabha Menon
6	,,	P. C. Kuriyan	16	,,	R Sivaraman Nair
7	,,	K. M. Kuriakose	17	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
8	,,	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	18	,,	P. K. Thomas
9	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	19	,,	N. E. Varughese
10	,,	K. Mahomed	20	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair

NOES.—15.

1	Mr.	C. V. Chandrasekharan	10	Mr.	K. Madhavan
2	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	11	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
3	,,	R. Dhanukoti Pillai	12	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
4	,,	K. George	13	Rao Bahadur	A. Rengaswamy Iyer
5	,,	M. Govinda Pillai	14	Mr.	G. B. E. Truscott
6	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef	15	,,	T. C. Thommen
7	,,	N. John Joseph			
8	,,	T. T Kesavan Sastri			
9	Rao Bahadur	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai			

NEUTRALS—9.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	6	Mr.	Menatheri N. Kesava Panicker
2	,,	K. R. Elenkath	7	,,	G. Nilakantan
3	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	8	,,	Changanacherry K. Parameswaran Pillai
4	,,	Antony George	9	,,	K. Padmanabhan
5	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai			

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Resolution is carried.

ABOLITION OF EXPORT DUTY ON COCOANUT PRODUCTS.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

> "*This Assembly recommends to the Government that the export duty on cocoanut products be abolished till normal economic conditions are restored.*"

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